

THE LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing an extracted mineral element composition ~~consisting essentially of comprising:~~

one acid treatment step, a settling step, a separating step, and a concentrating step,

wherein the one acid treatment step consists of [(i)] admixing a clay soil comprising at

least eight macro mineral elements, comprising chlorine, magnesium, manganese, phosphorous, potassium, sodium, at least five percent by weight calcium, and at least five percent by weight silica, and a low concentration to none of arsenic, lead, mercury and cadmium, with water in an amount at least two times the weight of the soil and at least one an acid to produce a water-acid-soil slurry, wherein the amount of acid is 0.25% to 7.5% of the weight of the water;

wherein the settling step consists of [(ii)] allowing solids from the water-acid-soil slurry to settle from the slurry;

wherein the separating step consists of [(iii)] separating the acidic liquid of the water-acid-soil slurry from the settled solids wherein the solids comprise substantially all of the silica and aluminum from the clay soil, and

wherein the concentrating step consists of [(iv)] concentrating the separated acidic liquid to increase the concentration of mineral elements in the acidic liquid, wherein the pH of the concentrated liquid is from about 2 to about 5, to form a liquid extracted mineral element composition comprising,

(a) eight macro mineral elements calcium, chlorine, magnesium, manganese, phosphorous, potassium, silicon, and sodium, wherein the liquid is lower in silica and lower in aluminum than the clay soil; and

(b) at least sixty of micro mineral elements aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, bismuth, boron, bromine, cadmium, cerium, cesium, chromium, cobalt, copper, dysprosium, erbium, europium, fluorine, gadolinium, gallium, germanium, gold, hafnium, holmium, iodine, indium, iridium, iron, lanthanum, lead, lithium, lutetium, mercury, molybdenum, neodymium, nickel,

niobium, palladium, platinum, praseodymium, rhenium, rhodium, rubidium, ruthenium, samarium, scandium, selenium, silver, strontium, sulfur, tantalum, terbium, tellurium, thallium, thorium, thulium, tin, titanium, tungsten, vanadium, ytterbium, yttrium, zinc, or zirconium; and

(c) at least ten rare earth elements.

2. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) ~~An article of manufacture comprising a composition~~ The extracted mineral element composition made by the method of Claim 1.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising drying the concentrated ~~acidic~~ liquid to form a dry extracted mineral element composition.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein drying comprises spray drying the ~~concentrated acidic liquid~~ extracted mineral element composition.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pH of the extracted mineral element composition is less than 4.5.
- 6.-8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the water is purified by reverse osmosis.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acid is an edible acid.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the edible acid is citric acid.
12. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10, wherein the edible acid is phosphoric acid.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~acidic~~ liquid is concentrated by reverse osmosis.
14. (New) The extracted mineral element composition made by the method of Claim 3.